

1, 17, 18, 19, 21, and 22, respectively. Support for these new claims is found in the corresponding method claims and portions of the specification that relate to such method claims. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added to the application by virtue of these new claims being added to the application.

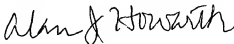
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$240.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0836 for payment for the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b) for 6 excess independent claims for a small entity. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in this fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0836.

Should the Examiner deem it advisable to conduct a telephone interview for any reason, the undersigned attorney would be most agreeable to receiving a telephone call to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1-33 and passage of this application to issue.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan J. Howarth, Ph.D.
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 20450